

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JANUARY 19 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED PENTAGON SOURCES AS SAYING SECRETARY BROWN HAD ASKED HENRY OWEN, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES AT BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, TO SERVE IN NEWLY CREATED JOB OF UNDER SECRETARY OF POLICY. JOB WILL RANK DIRECTLY BENEATH BROWN AND DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNCAN. "SOURCES SAID THAT MAJOR SHIFT WOULD ALLOW SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, MR. OWEN, TO DEAL WITH OVER-ALL POLICY AND STRATEGIC QUESTIONS AND SERVE AS PENTAGON'S POINT OF CONTACT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, ACDA AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY," WEINRAUB REPORTED. "MOREOVER, APPOINTMENT CEMENTS MR. BROWN'S CONTROL OVER MILITARY AND ENABLES DEFENSE SECRETARY TO
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PLACE CIVILIAN IN RANKING JOB OVERSEEING NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES AND MILITARY FORCES NECESSARY TO MEET THEM... WITH CREATION OF AN UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLICY, MR. BROWN HAS CLEARLY TAKEN INITIATIVE FOR PENTAGON PLANNING AND PROGRAMS OUT OF HANDS OF MILITARY HIERARCHY AND PLACED IT IN CONTROL OF CIVILIANS." WEINRAUB SAID OWEN HAS DELAYED FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF PENTAGON JOB PENDING ASSURANCES THAT

HE WOULD HAVE FIRM JURISDICTION OVER PENTAGON AGENCIES THAT DEAL WITH POLICY AND PLANNING. TIMES CORRESPONDENT SAID WHAT HAS STIRRED MOST TENSION OVER NEW POST IS UNDER SECRETARY'S CONTROL OVER PENTAGON'S INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS AGENCY. UNDER RE-ORGANIZATION, ISA HEAD WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLICY RATHER THAN TO DEFENSE SECRETARY. UNDER SECRETARY ALSO WILL SUPERVISE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, NSA AND "NET ASSESSMENT" BRANCH, WHICH LARGELY DEALS WITH SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH, WEINRAUB SAID.

2. S. T. COHEN AND E. F. BLACK, WRITING IN JANUARY 20 NATIONAL REVIEW, MAINTAINED THAT "WHILE NOT DENYING THAT NUCLEAR WAR INDEED COULD HAVE CALAMITOUS EFFECTS, SOVIETS HOLD THAT: A) IT VERY WELL MIGHT HAPPEN; AND B) IF IT DOES HAPPEN, SOVIET UNION NOT ONLY WILL SURVIVE BUT WILL SURVIVE VICTORIOUS." COHEN AND BLACK CHARGED THAT "WHATEVER SOVIETS' FUTURE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS MAY BE, IF BUILDUP OF THEIR OVER-ALL STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES -- OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE, MILITARY AND CIVIL -- CONTINUES AT RATE SHOWN DURING PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND IF U.S. DOES NO MORE TO COMPENSATE FOR IT THAN IT HAS BEEN DOING, TIME WILL COME, QUITE POSSIBLY DURING EARLY 1980'S, WHEN SOVIETS WILL GAIN STRATEGIC PREPONDERANCE OVER U.S., PREPONDERANCE BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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GAUGED HERE, AS SOVIETS SEE IT, ON BASIS OF VICTORY IN NUCLEAR WAR." ASSERTING THAT U.S. IS COURTING DISASTER, AUTHORS SAID CRASH U.S. EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO HEAD OFF CRITICAL STRATEGIC IMBALANCE IN SOVIETS' FAVOR. THEY RECOMMENDED THAT MINUTEMAN PRODUCTION LINE BE REVITALIZED AND EXTENDED TO PROVIDE, WITHIN FEW YEARS, MORE SECURE MOBILE MISSILE FORCE; THAT NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE CAPABILITY PLUS MISSILE PAYLOAD BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED, AND PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATE CARRIAGE FOR CRUISE MISSILES SHOULD BE INITIATED AND IMPLEMENTED. CHRISTOPHER

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